

RIDGEVIEW CHARTER BOARD MINUTES

Date: Saturday, September 19, 2020,

Time: 10:00 am

Facilitator: Shezarrah Keane

In Attendance

Board members: Shezarrah Keane, Jennifer Stepp, Reshall Williams, Mikal Brown and Colleen Samuels.

Location

Remote – Conference Call

Meeting Called to Order: 10:08

Approval of Agenda

Motion to approve by Mrs. Stepp. Second by Mr. Brown. Unanimous vote

Approval of Minutes

Motion to approve by Mr. Brown. Second by Mrs. Williams. Unanimous vote

Principal's Report

The enrollment goal continues to be 250 students. Our current enrollment is 202. We have lost more students to another local charter school and also to Gaston County Schools. One of the reasons continues to be lack of Chrome Books for the hybrid students. The demographic breakdown of student population is as follows: Hispanic/Latino 10% (18 students), White 4% (9 students), Multiracial 6% (11 students), Black/African American 80% (164 students).

We are still enrolling students and are looking at ways to advertise the school. Mrs. Williams is continuing to make sure we are increasing our online efforts and footprint. The radio advertising was not as successful as we hoped most likely due to more parents working from home due to Covid and not being on the road as much listening to radio. Mrs. Williams will look into cost of a postcard mailing, billboard, and robocalls and texts and report her findings to the board.

We have passed the 20-day enrollment count on which funding is based. We will receive enough funding to maintain current staffing levels. Further enrollment will only increase local funding and not state funding.

Mrs. Williams has been receiving unexpected invoices for expenses we thought were covered through our contract with AES. The board voted to request a monthly summary report of charges from AES. Motion made by Mrs., Stepp. Second by Mr. Brown. Unanimous vote.

We have signed a contract with Kelly Staffing Services but have not had to utilize their services yet since the number of students attending on any day is small so the other grade level teacher can cover both classes if a teacher is absent. They are setting up a pool of substitutes for us to pull from.

We have two classes for every grade level except for 4th grade. We moved one of the 4th grade teachers to 1st grade so that the teacher of the 1st grade and kindergarten combination class could move to teaching only Kindergarten. Mrs. Williams also hired a new EC teacher who is already hard at work bringing us into compliance on IEPs, and evaluations.

We have still not been approved for the free and reduced lunch program. Our regional representative has submitted our packet to the state. He emphasized that the community our school serves is a underserved community that automatically qualifies us as a Title 1 school and that it is a violation of the civil rights of the students to not have this service as they should also be eligible for extra food stamps once approved for free and reduced lunch. DPI has not processed our application. The board advised Mrs. Williams to talk with the attorney afforded to us by AES and ask about the potential of a lawsuit asking for damages and retribution.

The holes under the HVAC units still have not been repaired. The hole in the Kindergarten classroom has been patched but the wall still has not repaired. HVAC compressors were repaired again. Balusters on the lights need to be replaced. Not only does the blinking lights make working more difficult but it can cause headaches and seizures for anyone with epilepsy or other seizure disorders. A motion was made by Mrs. Stepp to get a quote for having the balusters replaced. Second by Mrs. Samuels. Unanimous vote.

The kitchen was professionally cleaned but is dirty again from non-school use. We will need to get it cleaned again before the state comes for an inspection. Mrs. Williams will contact the cleaning service. We will consider entering into an agreement for regular cleaning once we are approved for the free and reduced lunch program.

The school is responsible for providing computers and hotspots. We had a family ask for a hotspot so Mrs. Williams bought 4 hotspots for school families who may need them.

Later she received a call for the state, and they are providing us with an additional 25 hotspots for our families. The computers are still backordered due to a national inventory shortage. We hope to have them in October.

The school phones stopped working. Mrs. Williams replaced them with new phones with the capability of two lines.

Most schools in North Carolina are joining _____, a records request system. It is impossible to get records for students from some of the other school systems without using this service. The company is approved by the government for the highest level of security and confidentiality. The board voted to subscribe to the service. The contract is for 3 years and costs \$150 a month. Motion was made by Mrs. Samuels. Second by Mrs. Stepp. Unanimous vote.

The school needed a concussion policy for our audit. Even without sports programs we need it because we have PE classes. Mrs. Williams wrote the policy to align with CDC recommendations. It will be added to the handbook. A motion to approve the policy was made by Mrs. Stepp. Second by Mr. Brown. Unanimous vote.

The school is responsible for a plan to address the announcement by the governor that Elementary School can fully reopen if they wish to on, or after, October 5, 2020. Mrs. Williams will have a survey sent out to parents to gauge their interest in fully opening. The survey results will be sent to the board and we will decide whether to continue with a hybrid/remote model or to move to a full time/remote model.

Old Business

None

New Business

None

Comments and Announcements

None

Next Meeting

October 31, 2020 | 10:00 am | Ridgeview Charter School

Adjournment: 11:21

Motion by Mrs. Williams, Second by Mr. Brown, Unanimous vote